

REMARKS

This Response supplements the Response to Office Action filed April 28, 2005. Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 20 were amended in the earlier filed response. In this response, claim 21 was added. Comments and remarks set forth in the response filed April 28, 2005 are incorporated herein by reference. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Response to Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-20 are considered to distinguish over the cited art for all the reasons set forth in the remarks section of applicants' response filed April 28, 2005. As stated above, all comments and remarks of such response are incorporated herein by reference.

Added claim 21 recites,

21. (New) A computer-implemented method of making lecture notes available prior to a lecture, the method comprising:
prior to a time when a lecture or series of lectures is to be given, receiving a set of lecture notes from a first user and saving the set of lecture notes to a database as an original set of lecture notes, wherein authorized users can access the original set of lecture notes, wherein the set of lecture notes includes a plurality of sections;
receiving, from a second user, a request to access the original set of lecture notes;
if it is determined that the second user is one of the authorized users, displaying the original set of lecture notes to the second user, wherein a display of a first section of the plurality of sections of the set of original lecture notes contains a respective first link for receiving questions regarding the content of the first section;
subsequent to displaying the original set of lecture notes to the second user, receiving, from the second user, a first question relating to the first section, the first question being submitted using the first link;
when the first question is received, alerting the first user electronically and providing the first user with a copy of the original set of lecture notes having the first question shown in association with the first section;
receiving, from the first user, modifications to the copy of the original set of lecture notes to form a modified set of lecture notes; and
saving the modified set of lecture notes to the database such that the modified set of lecture notes replaces the original set of lecture notes.

In addition to the distinctions over the prior art discussed with regard to claims 1-20, added claim 21 is considered to further distinguish over Ichiyoshi and Grouse in the recitation of *prior to a time when a lecture or series of lectures is to be given, receiving a set of lecture notes from a first user and saving the set of lecture notes to a database as an original set of lecture notes, wherein authorized users can access the original set of lecture notes*. Because these lecture notes are intended to spark interactions before the

lecture, they are made available early in the process. Because of this, it is possible to have the sequences, of (a) questioning the lecturer and (b) having an answer incorporated into the notes, take place before the lecture even happens. In contrast, Ichiyoshi does not appear to make the information available prior to the lecture, noting,

[0014] The satellite communication correspondence school according to the present invention provides said lecturers with a material preparing means for making up educational materials using figures, pictures, images, compositions, and voices, receives said educational materials made by said lecturers with the help of a communication function dedicated to lecturers for accessing to a mailbox and e-mails, performs data compression on said received educational materials, temporarily stores said compressed data, and sends said educational materials to said satellite communication earth station in accordance with a predetermined time schedule, and wherein said satellite communication earth station provides said subscriber terminals with said educational materials via said communication satellite in a broadcasting manner.

Students appear to receive all the materials, including figures, compositions, and voices, at the same time. Grouse is hosting a virtual convention, describing it thus,

[0025] In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, a screen is provided to convention participants to provide the functions of a presentation by a speaker, the screen including (i) a picture of the speaker, (ii) a window with a scrolling feature incorporating the text of the speech of the speaker, (iii) an invitation to submit a question to the speaker, (iv) a field for receiving the question, and (v) a button for sending the question to set speaker to be included with any response within the window with a scrolling feature.

It does not appear that Grouse provides a means for participants to receiving the information prior to the actual presentations. Thus, neither Ichiyoshi nor Grouse discloses the steps of *prior to a time when a lecture or series of lectures is to be given, receiving a set of lecture notes from a first user and saving the set of lecture notes to a database as an original set of lecture notes, wherein authorized users can access the original set of lecture notes*. Thus, the rejection under 103 over Ichiyoshi and Grouse is believed overcome for claim 21.

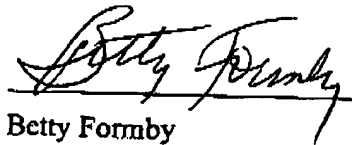
II. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over Ichiyoshi and Grouse and is now in condition for allowance.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: June 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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